

## KAROLINSKA INSTITUTET STOCKHOLM 60

Stockholm, Oct. 18, 1966

Prof. J. Lederberg Dept. of Genetics Stanford University School of Medicine Stanford Medical Center Palo Alto, Cal. 94304 USA

Dear Prof. Lederberg,

Thank you very much for the clippings from the Washington Post which I read with very great interest. You certainly make a very important contribution to science policy development in this way.

With regard to the question of disarmament in the biological warfare area this has, as you know, a high priority in the studies of the Pugwash Organization and the report on the experimental inspections, which I was asked to co-ordinate, was in fact presented at the recent "Early Warning" meeting in Stockholm, where, in the last minute, you unfortunately found it impossible to participate. I enclose a copy for your information.

Your articles showed me that you have an unusual capacity to write about science for lay-men. However I must say that I don't think that you exercised it very much when writing the article on "Genetics and Microbiology" for UNESCO's IMPACT. I suppose the reason is that you were more or less tied to the terminology used in the earlier article which was aimed at microbiologists. Personally I found your approach most interesting, but I fear that the technique of cutting up the text on two alternating timelevels will make the reading tiring for the non-microbiologists among IMPACT's readers. This is unfortunate, because a large fraction of them will certainly be attracted by a survey by such a well-known person as you are. As it is, I am not sure that they will be as successful in skimming the social impact angles out of the text as the biologists will be. I think that the paper would be fine for "Bioscience", for instance, but I feel that it would need a very thorough overhaul to suit Impact. It would of course be perfect if you could find the time to do this, perhaps after testing the text on some non-biologist among your scientist friends. If this would be impossible, I

feel that UNESCO should however compensate you for the effort you have made so far. My hope is of course that you will revise the text because I think that it contains a very important core of information about microbial genetics, which nobody could present with more authority than you.

Best personal regards.

cc. Dr. A. Pérez-Vitoria, Editor of Impact.

ENCLOSURES